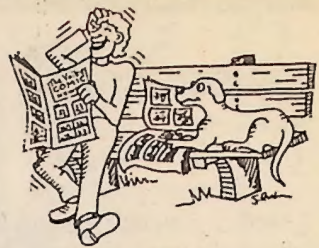


The Valley COMICS N · E · W · S



ISSUE #46
September 12, 1991

FREE

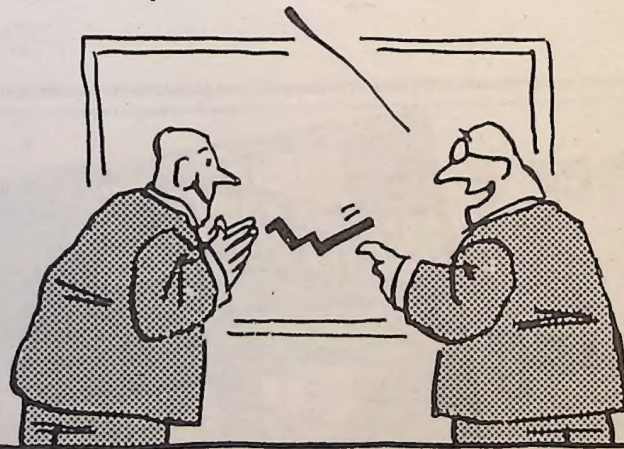
FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE, DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS, VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, THE BRASS AND FERN,
EARTHWEEK, IZZY GESELL'S *HUMOR ME*,
PRESIDENT BILL & JOE BOB BRIGGS.

STORIES:
BO(RIS) KNOWS
DEMOCRAPS
IF U CN REDE DIS
SUPREME BEING?
TAKE OUR PREZ, PLEASE

LOOK! THE RECOVERY
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SOMETHING NEW-



A RECOVERETTE



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PRESIDENT BILL BY WILLIAM L. BROWN

America's educational system was modeled after the mass-production factory. Students passed through the institution on a virtual conveyor belt, were uniformly "assembled" at each station, and passed out the other end as complete products like so many automobiles. With its emphasis on regurgitating data and passing standard tests, the system made few concessions to individuality or analytical thinking. It squelched most children's natural thirst for learning, and turned a few students into overachieving sycophants. My first reform was to make school attendance optional.



My administration's education reforms were logical and reasonable. For example, we made school attendance optional. Expecting children to grow into responsible, free citizens by—in essence—jailing them was a contradiction. The prison-like aspects of school became more dominant in junior high school, where hormone-distracted adolescent students attained adult size and intelligence untempered by wisdom or experience. How educators ever imagined that these youngsters could be schooled in anything other than their burning interests was beyond me.



"President Bill" appears in *President Bill, a Graphic Epic*, a book published by Andrews and McMeel. This book is now available at Broadside Bookshop, Faces, Food For Thought Books, and the Beyond Words bookstore. Get caught up on the story. It's worth it.

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PAGE THREE

Are we the only ones who feel uneasy at the uncritical acclaim the drive for change in the Soviet Union and elsewhere is receiving? It's all being marketed as a desire for democracy but to us it looks like dollar signs, not American flags, that are dancing in the eyes of the formerly oppressed as well as the recession-ridden capitalists. The basic right that is being peddled here is the right to buy stuff. We're afraid that in other countries the Bill of Rights is being sold as a Bill of Goods.

Watch our next issue for details on a new contest: THE VALLEY'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS. Start getting ready.

The Valley Comic News

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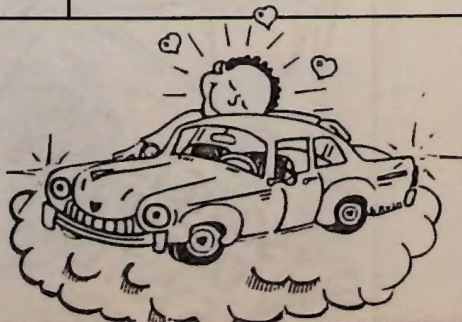


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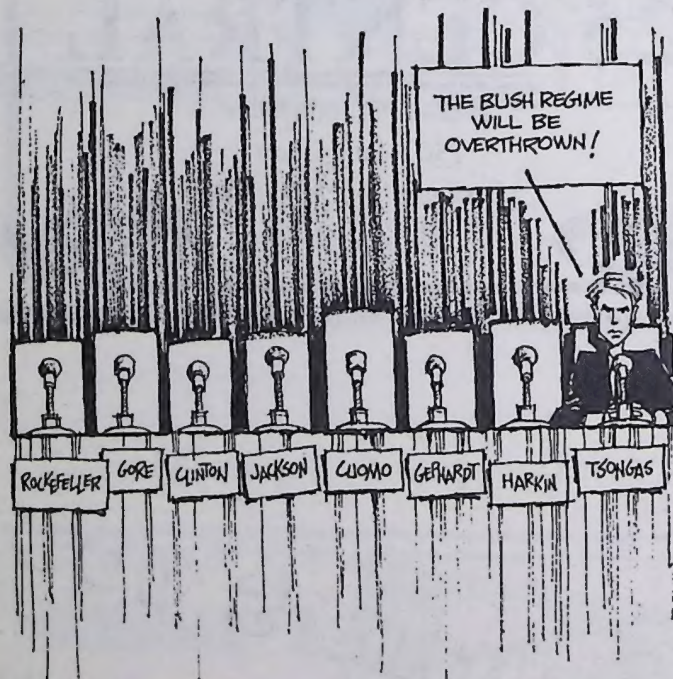
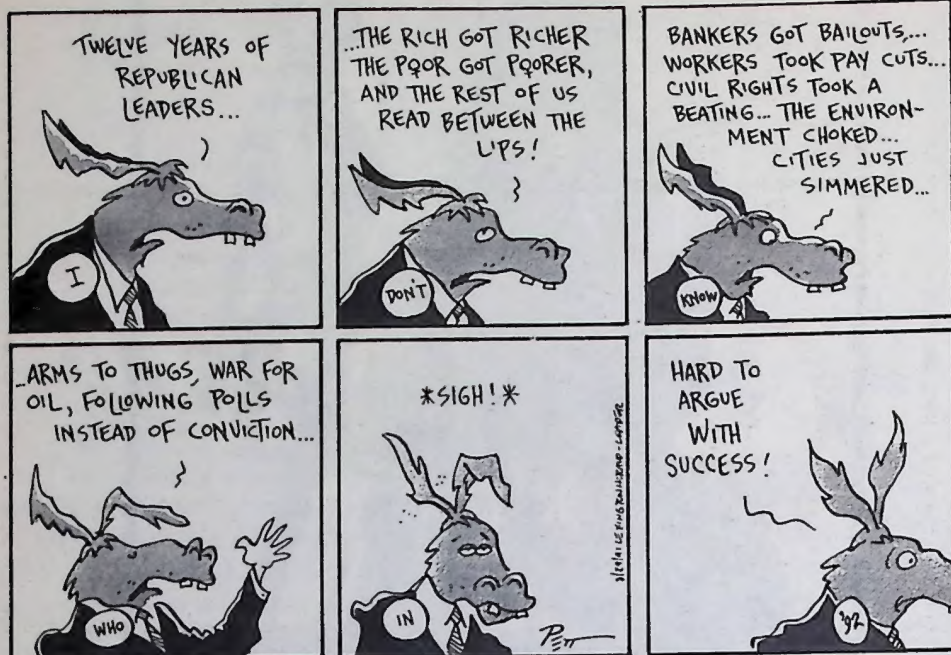
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STUFF THAT'S COOL
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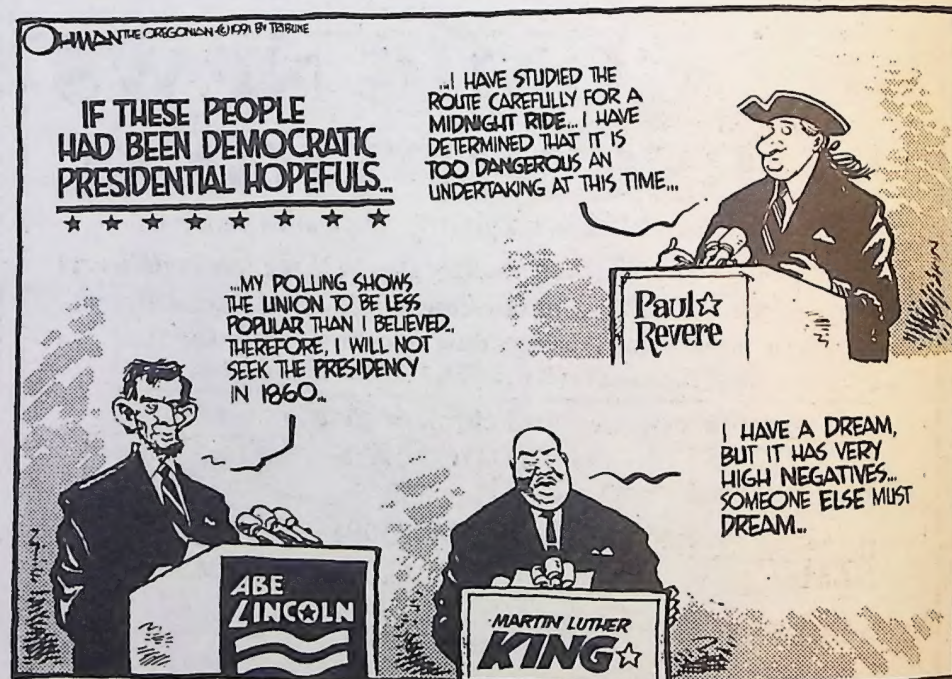


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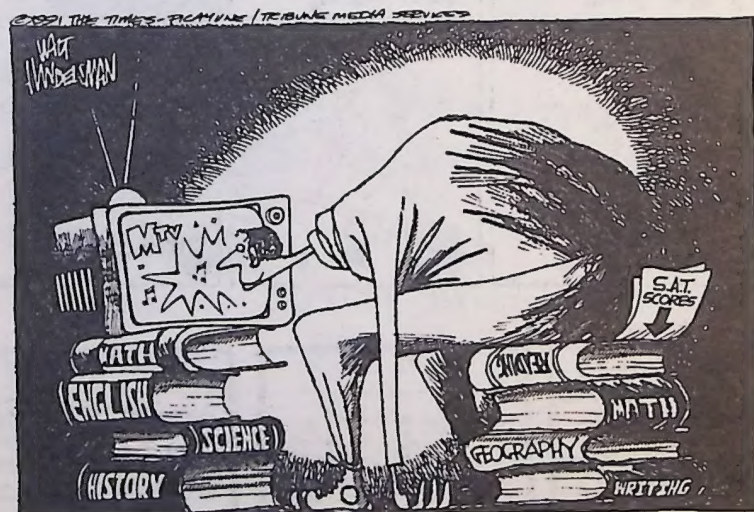
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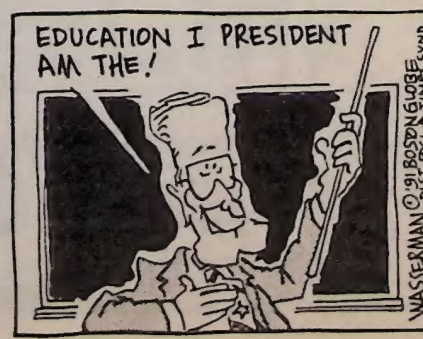
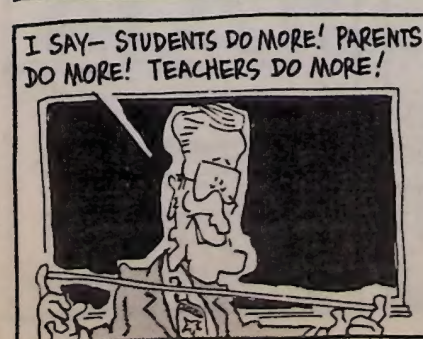
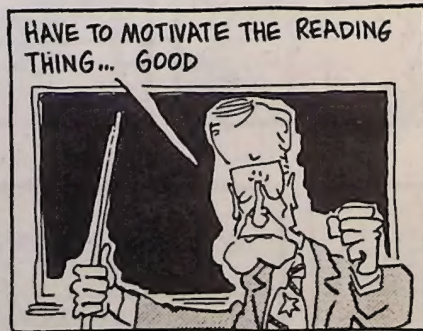
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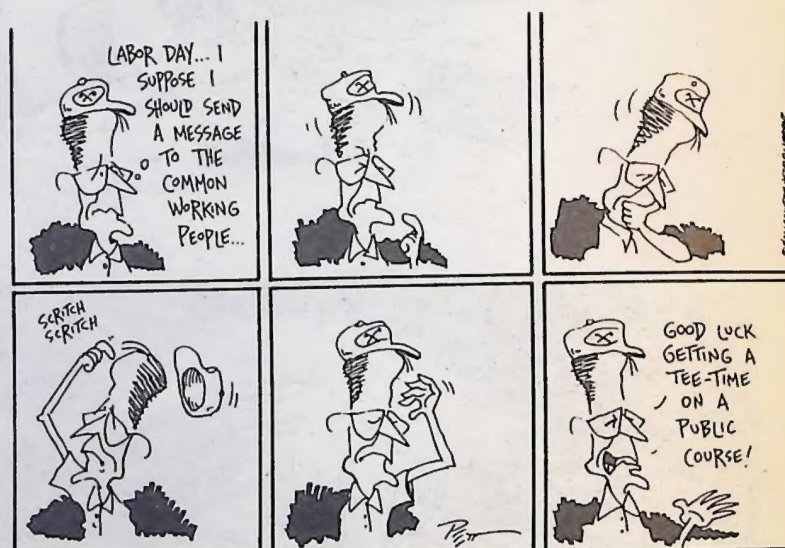
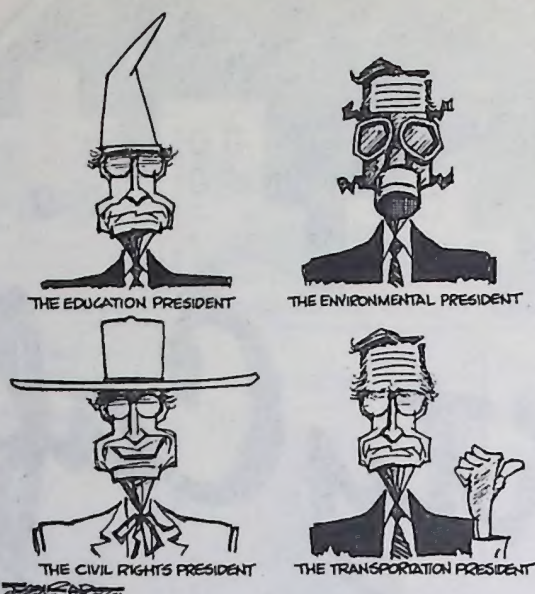
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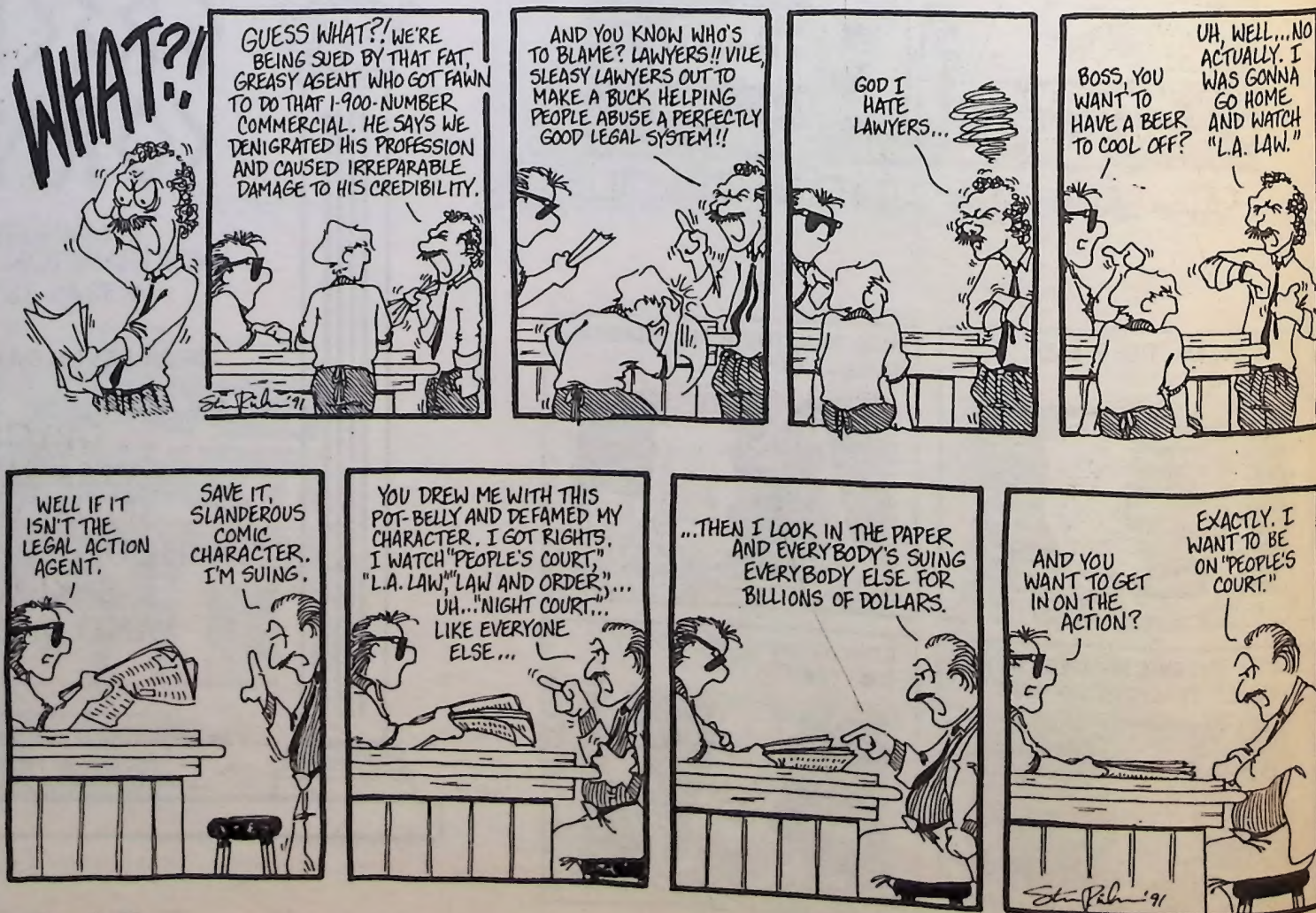
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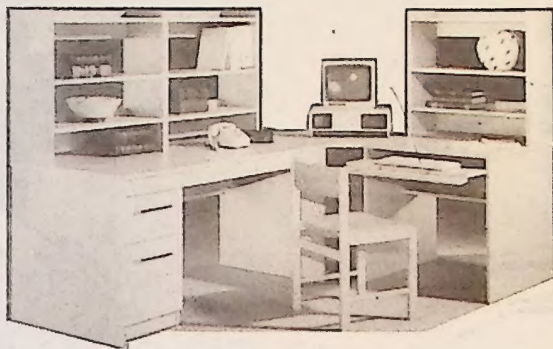
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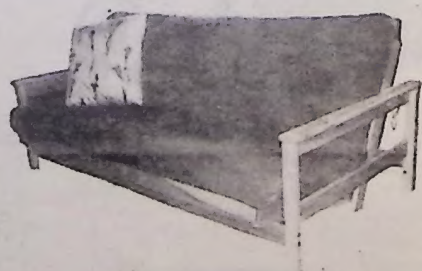
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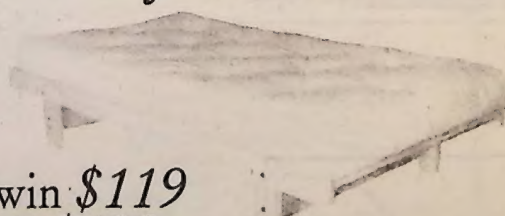
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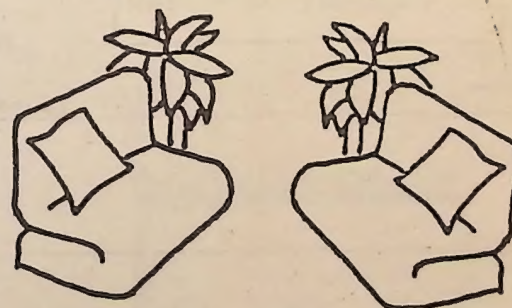
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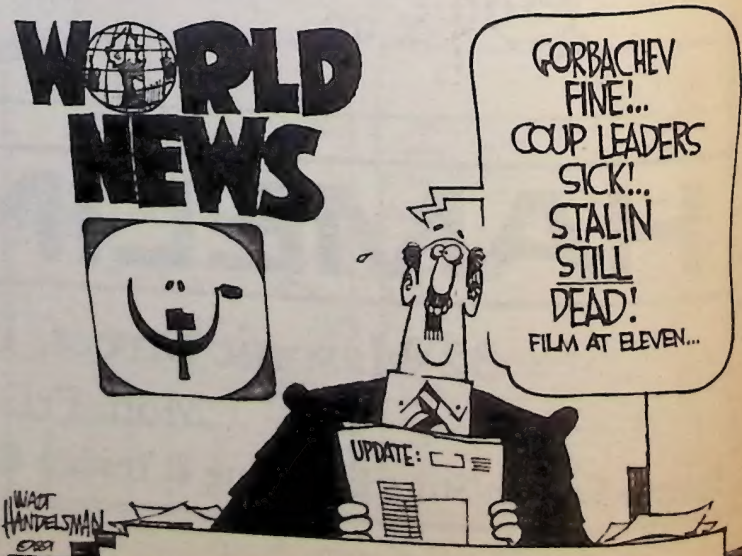
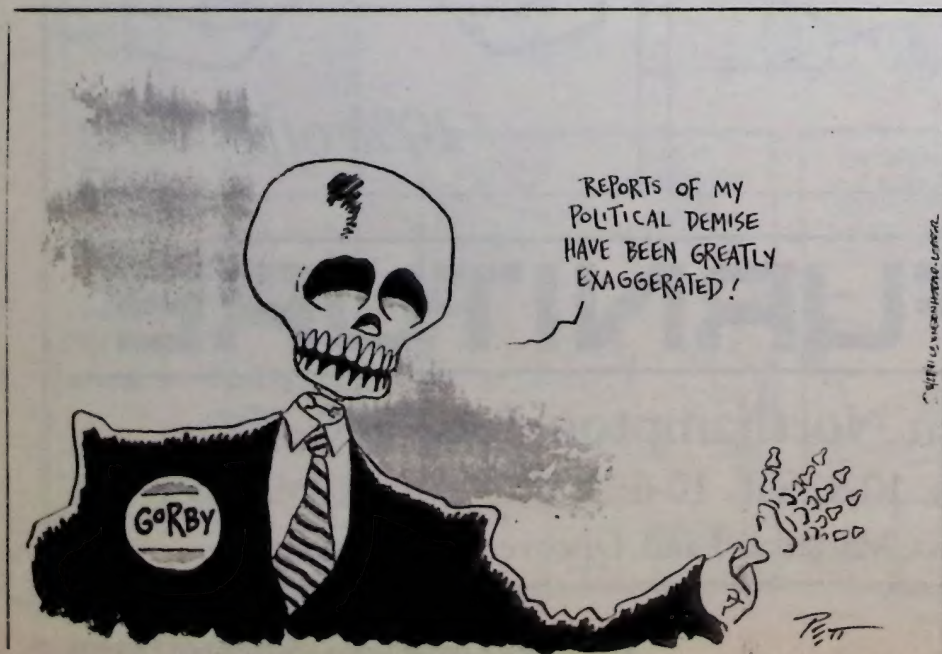
WALT HANDELSMAN



THE KREMLIN PURGE:
JOE STALIN MEETS JOE MCCARTHY



BACK TO THE FUTURE



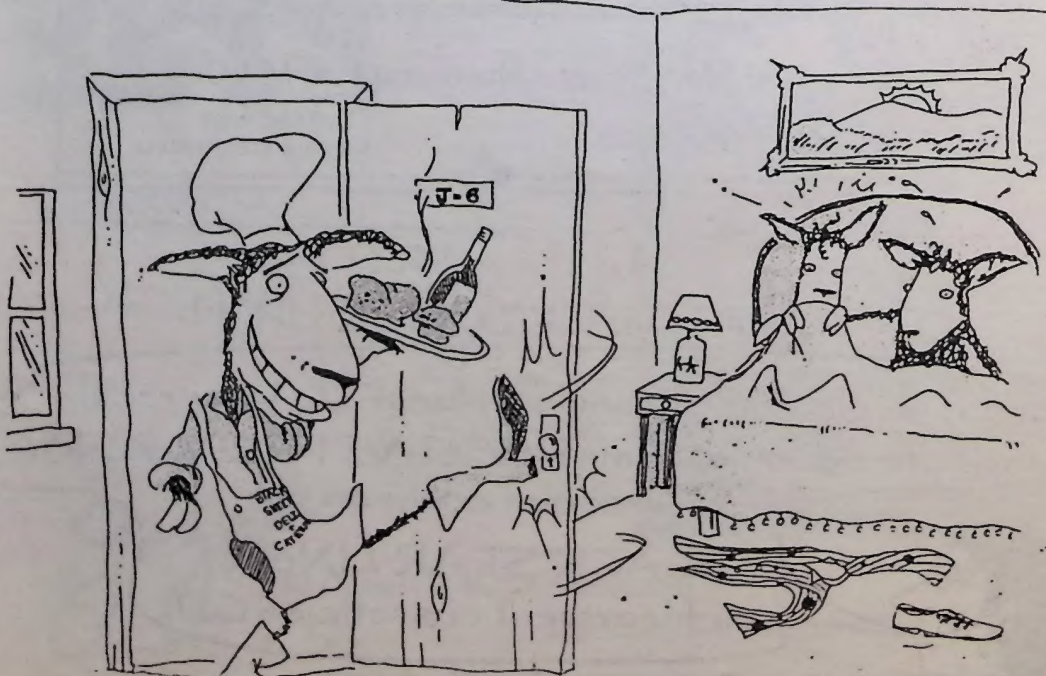
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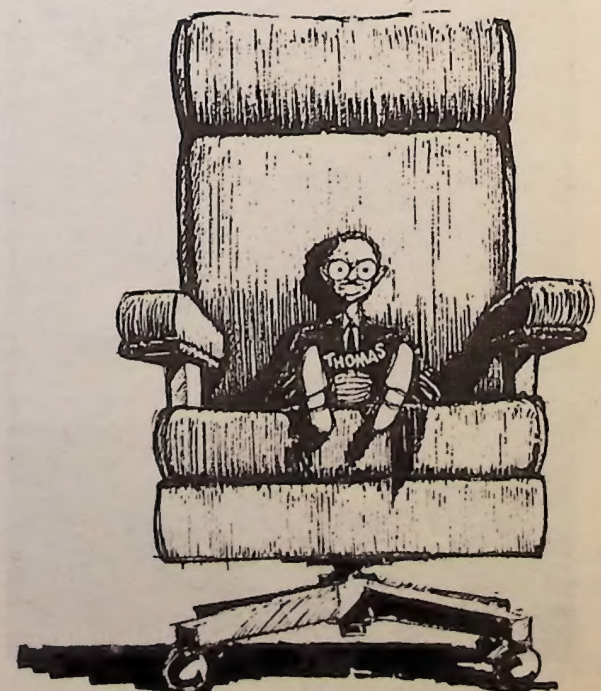
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"Older the cat, the longer the claws." That's a feline fact.

Did I mention a skunk's spray glows in the dark?

Your house is a little bigger in the summer than in the winter.

Q. If you drop a baseball from belt-buckle height, how fast will it be going when it hits the ground?
A. About 15 mph.

Conductance" is a faint electrical activity in the skin. Girl babies have more of it than boy babies.

Centerpiece of the colonial American dinner table was a dish of salt.

Why Michigan once passed a law that expressly prohibits hitching a crocodile to a fire hydrant I don't know. Curious one, that.

That person who doesn't need much sleep rarely can recall a night's dreams. But the person who needs a lot of sleep tends to remember them. Or some of them. So say the researchers.

Rattlesnake experts say the Western Diamond-back can inject enough venom in one bite to kill 45 people.

a delicacy once. Some old newspaper stories claim as many buffalo were killed for their tongues as for their hides. Or almost.

After any Indianapolis 500, cleanup crews say they always find fried chicken bones all over the place.

"Money," said that sage Gottfried Reinhardt, "is good for bribing yourself through the inconveniences of life."

Dentists might consider adopting the elephant as their professional symbol. A young elephant has four teeth, an upper and lower on each side.

When they wear down, others replace them. Six times. When all six sets have been worn out, the elephant can no longer chew, so dies of starvation. Its life depends on the condition of its teeth.

A pine cone has eight rows of scales spiraling one way and 13 spiraling the other. You can say the same for a pineapple.

If you're on a diet, contemplate this: A raccoon weighs about half as much in March as it weighed in September.

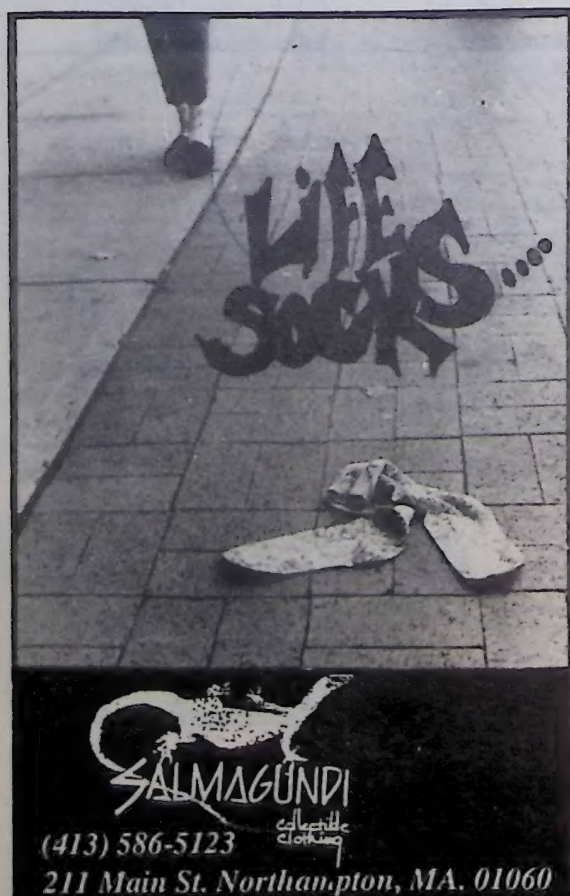
Q. Neil Armstrong climbed down a ladder to first set foot on the moon. Where's that ladder? A. Still up there.

The Southwest's spotted variety of skunk does a handstand before it zaps.

It's not unusual for a grownup seal to go out for an eight-month swim.

People averse to crowds aren't afraid of them, not usually. They just don't like getting so many signals from so many sources at the same time. They prefer a one-ring circus to a three-ringer.

Your brain has dibs on about a quarter of your body's oxygen.



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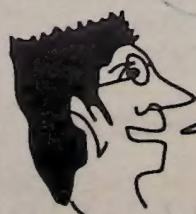
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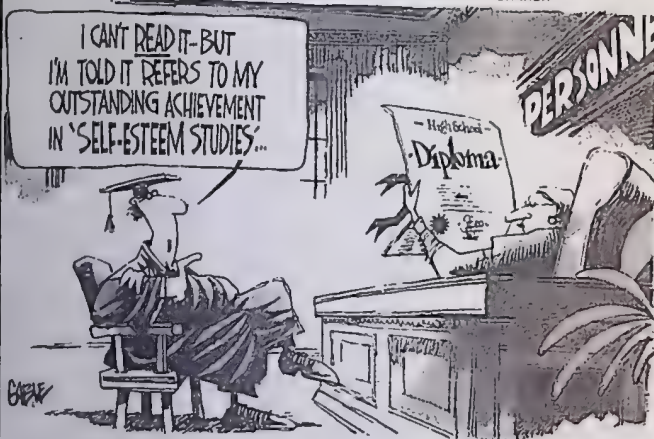
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Hip-Shod

If you thought girdles were only for grannies, think again. Former sportswear designer Nancy Ganz has come up with a version for the nineties that even our pencil-slim, mini-clad colleagues have deemed a must. Ganz calls her invention Hipslip—it's a nylon-and-Lycra mini-slip that trims the hips, firms the tummy, and eliminates panty lines (Hipslip comes in black, nude, and white).



Market Street Laundry

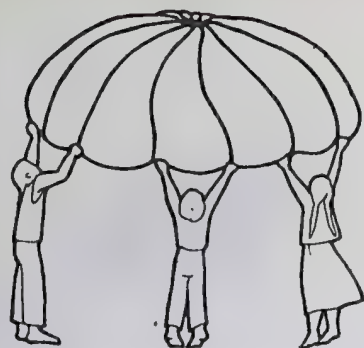
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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

Volcanic Disasters

Violent eruptions from southern Chile's Mt. Hudson Volcano ceased after 10 days of activity that caused more than \$40 million in damage. Chilean Deputy Interior Ministry Secretary Belisario Velasco reported that 10 villages and 400,000 acres of farm land were wiped out in General Carrera province. Authorities said that 30,000 head of cattle, sheep, and horses were already dead in Chile and neighboring Argentina, and that 40,000 more were expected to die of starvation as the toxic gas and ash wipe out their grazing lands in the once fertile Valle del Sol. Valley residents likened the eruption to the allied bombing of Baghdad, saying rocks as large as eight inches in diameter rained from the sky.

Monsoon rains and renewed activity at Mt. Pinatubo Volcano in the Philippines unleashed hot mudslides that forced villagers into treetops to escape the rivers of sizzling sludge. Enough ash has already been spewed out to threaten monsoon slides for several years.

Hurricane Season

Sixteen people died along a path of destruction left by Hurricane Bob as it tore through parts of the Atlantic coast of the United States and the Canadian maritime provinces. The worst affected area was southern New England where the full force of the storm moved ashore.

Typhoon Fred killed at least 14 people and destroyed several thousand homes as it brought high winds and heavy rains into extreme southern China and northern Vietnam.

Squalls which spread over Japan from typhoon Gladys produced flooding and mudslides near Tokyo that claimed at least 10 lives. One location received 28 inches of rainfall during the two-day tempest.

Typhoon Ellie lost force just before making landfall on China's Fujian coast.



Locusts

Nairobi's *Daily Nation* reported that political instability in Somalia and Ethiopia may keep international agencies from effectively killing a new crop of desert locusts before they migrate to Kenya next March. Efforts to control the growing numbers of the insects have been halted in the war-torn countries.

Testing

The U.S. conducted its fourth underground nuclear explosion of the year beneath the Nevada Desert on August 15. Code-named "Floydada," the blast had a force of 20 kilotons.

Earthquakes

The strongest of four earthquakes to rock parts of northwestern California and southwestern Oregon caused landslides and knocked one home off its foundation. Earth movements

were also felt in southern Alaska, central coastal Chile, Trinidad, central Japan, India, and Tadjikistan.

Space Diamonds

Tiny diamonds discovered in southern Alberta came from meteors that struck the earth 65 million years ago, according to a government scientist. "There's no way the micro-diamonds could have been formed in a volcano" or by other geological processes on the planet, said David Carlisle, chief scientist at Environment Canada. The microscopic gems were discovered this spring about 60 miles northwest of Drumheller.

Twister

Several tornadoes swept across four villages in the southern Philippines, killing six people, flattening scores of houses, and uprooting trees. Another twister killed one person and destroyed 10 homes when it hit the

central Philippines two days later.

Toothy Escape

A retired Florida man who accidentally fell on top of a sleeping seven-foot alligator says his avid interest in television nature programs helped save his life. George Blinn, 71, of Inverness slipped off a dock and onto the reptile, which reacted by biting him on the left hand, and then trying to drown him. Blinn said the creature spun him around three times before the retired autoworker escaped by poking it in the eye with his thumb. "I wasn't the least bit afraid," said Blinn, who had seen programs explaining that alligators are normally peaceful unless disturbed. Blinn said he was sorry that a Florida game official had to kill the gator after he escaped its jaws. "It probably would still be there sleeping if I hadn't fallen on it."

Additional Sources: U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.

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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman

Volcanoes

Ash from Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines has been found to contain gold and other precious metals, but officials warn against any hopes of a new gold rush. "We've also found chromium, copper, lithium, and other metals," announced Joel Muyco, director of the Philippine Bureau of Mines and Geosciences. At only 20 parts per billion, the gold content is far below viable commercial levels, but the findings confirmed that there are major deposits lying beneath the volcano.

Japan's Mt. Unzen sent fresh waves of hot gas, ash, and rocks flowing down its slopes, igniting a small forest fire.

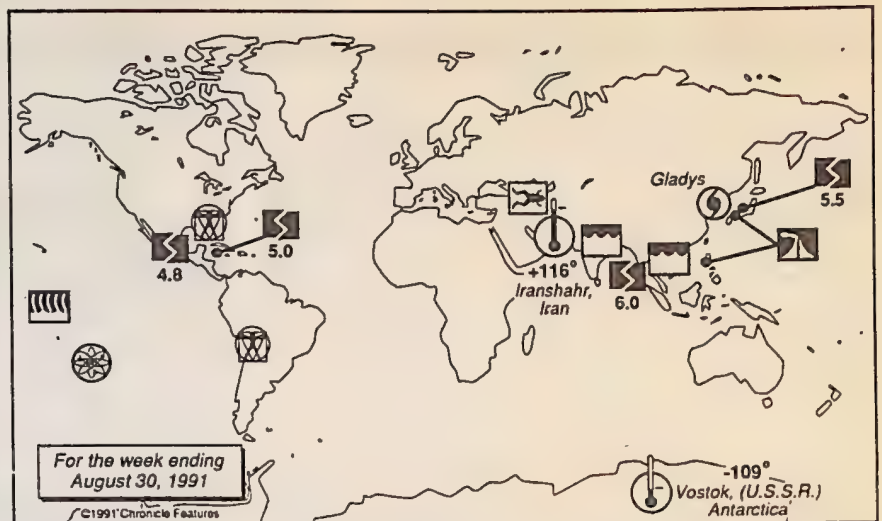
Floods

Heavy rains in the highlands of northeastern Thailand have caused severe flooding hundreds of miles downstream along the Mekong River in Cambodia. Four provinces to the south and west of Phnom Penh were hit with what was said to be the most serious inundation in living memory. An international relief effort has been launched to help the impoverished nation rebuild roads, rail lines, dams, and dikes, and to replace the lost rice harvest.

New Delhi, Calcutta, and other parts of northern India were hit by fierce monsoon rains that swamped city streets and flooded residential areas. The storms were caused by two tropical cyclones that moved ashore from the Bay of Bengal.

Earthquakes

A moderate tremor shook a large part of western Japan, halting rail traffic but causing no significant damage. Windows rattled and foundations shook on Grand Cayman Island as a magnitude 5.0 quake occurred just offshore. Earth movements were also felt in the Nicobar Islands and along Mexico's Oaxaca coast.



El Niño

The warm ocean water phenomenon called El Niño strengthened across the tropical Pacific. During the unusually strong 1981-82 El Niño episode, weather patterns around the world were disrupted. A leading climatologist at Brazil's University of the Tropics Foundation has already warned that this recent warming will affect the Amazon's climate from December through February 1992. Luis Carlos Molion believes that temperatures will average 10 degrees above normal, and that a drought will reduce water levels in the region.

Tropical Storms

More than 100 people were left dead after typhoon Gladys caused widespread flooding and wind damage across southeastern Korea. Officials estimate that the storm caused at least \$30 million in damage to factories, roads, ports, homes, and farmlands.

World Health

Cholera bacteria from one of the many areas of Latin America in the grip of a devastating epidemic has been found for the first time in U.S. waters. It is not known how the germs reached the Gulf of Mexico oyster banks in Mobile Bay. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control warned against eating the oysters until it determines the extent of the contamination.

Bolivian health officials confirmed that the disease had reached that country. The first four people to be stricken with cholera were discovered in a suburb of La Paz.

Contamination

A higher than normal concentration of plutonium was found in a small area near France's nuclear testing site of Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific, according to a report issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The study team, led by Victor Noshkin

and Serge Ballestra of a Monaco-based marine radioactivity laboratory, compared samples of water and plankton from sites just outside France's territorial waters. While the radioactive levels were very low, the report said that they could be coming from "some source in addition to global fallout." France has conducted nuclear tests at Mururoa and nearby Fangataufa since 1966.

Invasion

A large army of frogs has invaded the Caspian port of Ghazian, overrunning streets and hopping into houses. The Iranian news agency reported that they are from a local marsh that has been flooded with the overflow from nearby rivers. The area used to have a plant that bred and canned frogs for export, but it was closed after the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization



BUFFALO BILLS

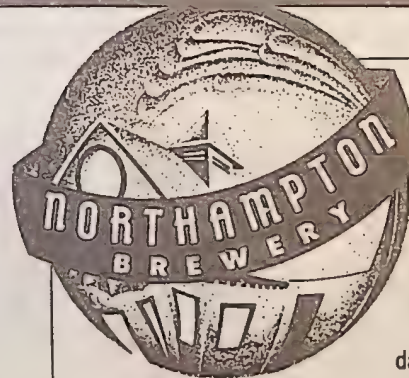
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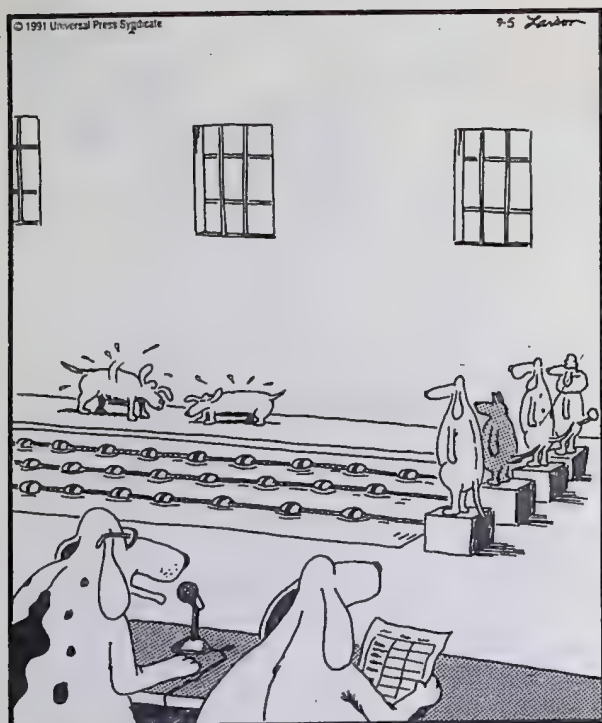
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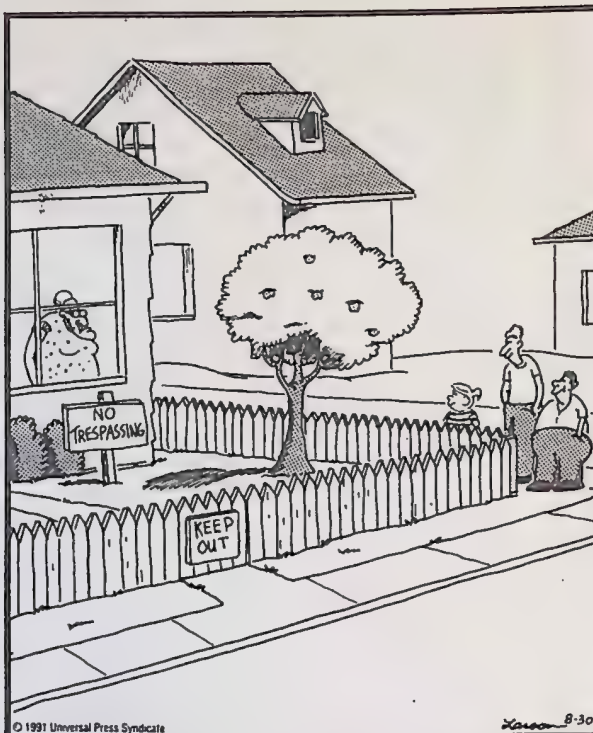
(Expires 10/5/91)

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Well, we're ready for the males' 100-meter freestyle, and I think we can rest assured that most of these athletes will select the dog paddle."



Mrs. MacIntyer smelled trouble. On one side of the fence was her fruit-laden apple tree; on the other was the neighborhood brat pack of Dennis the Menace, Eddie Haskell and Damien II.



"Well, there he goes again. . . I suppose I shouldn't worry, but I just get a bad feeling about Jimmy hanging with those tuna punks."



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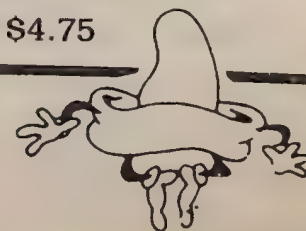
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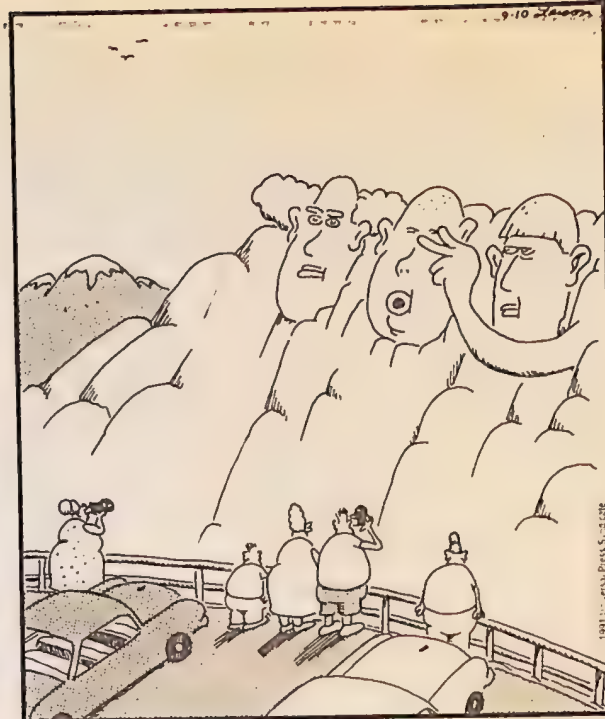




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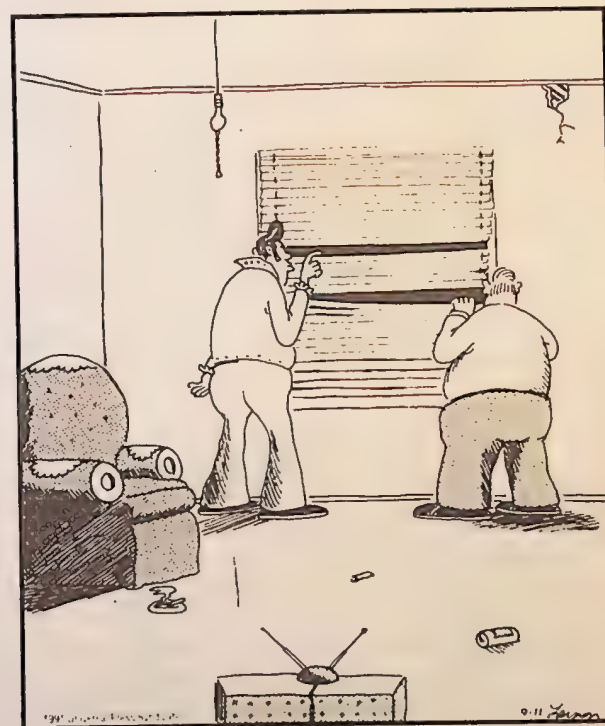
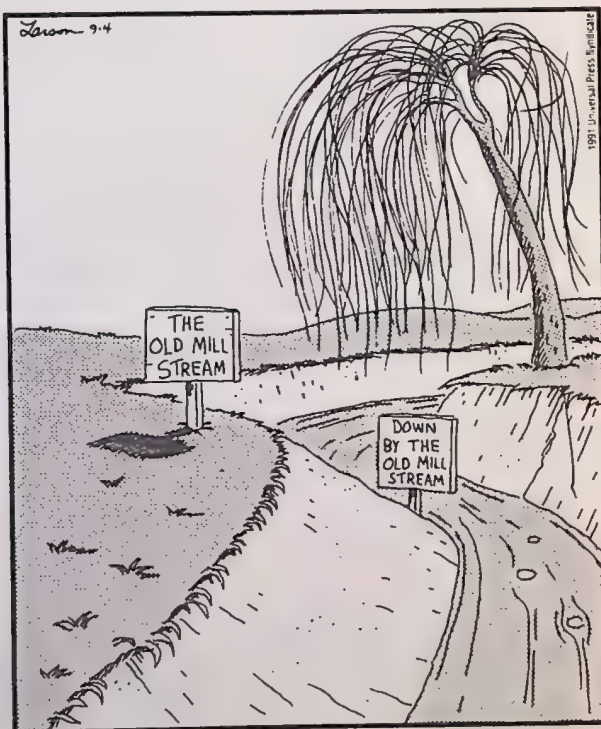
"Oh, my God, Rogers! ... Is that? ... Is that? It is! It's the MUMMY'S PURSE!"



At Mount Stogemore



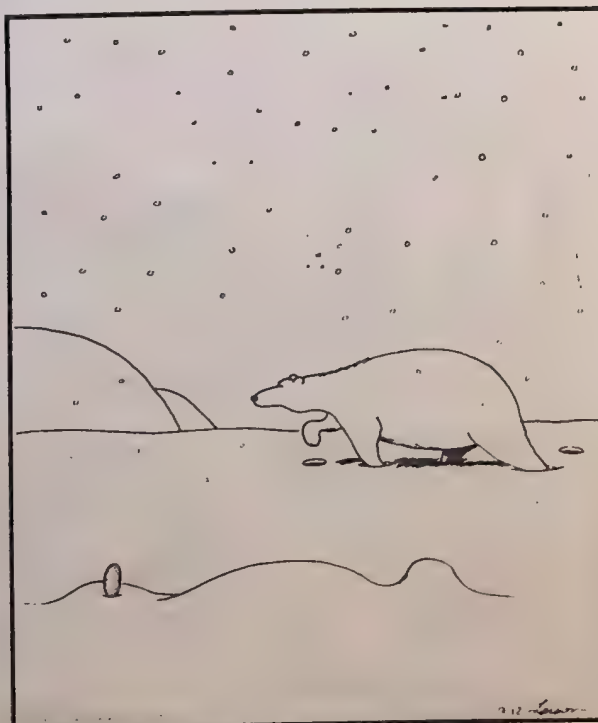
On the air with the "Boa Brothers"



Roommates Elvis and Salman Rushdie sneak a quick look at the outside world.



"Sure, I'll draw, mister — but first you gotta say the magic word. ... Didn't your mother ever teach you the magic word?"



In its typical defensive behavior, the arctic clown remained motionless and concealed —betrayed only by its nose.



JOE BOB BRIGGS

In the bad old days, when the judge would decide whether to send you to Sing Sing, Alcatraz or Leavenworth, he would be mostly interested in one thing: What did you do?

This was the only thing considered fair. If you did the crime, you served the time. The judge never asked "Well, is there a chance he'd do it again?" Or "Did his parents beat him when he was a kid?" Or "Has he shown proper remorse?" Or "Did he watch too much Mighty Mouse on TV?"

People might *talk* about all that stuff, but they didn't get all tangled up in it. The main question remained: What did he do?

Another example: In the recent past, when the high school teacher was deciding whether you deserved a B or a D, he would ask one thing only: What did you do?

He didn't ask "What did you do compared to other people in your socioeconomic group?" He didn't ask "What did you *intend* to do, but you didn't quite get it done because you were upset over your parents' divorce?" And he never ever asked "How earnest and sincere are you?"

If you did the work, you got an A or a B. If you didn't do the work, you got a C or worse. You were judged by what you did.

This is ancient history. Nobody believes this anymore. Did you know that it's now possible to be kicked out of college for making "slurs"? That doesn't mean that you actually *fight* with somebody, or that you conspire to deprive them of something — it just means you *say* something that reveals you to be the scum you always were, but we didn't find out about it till now, so you can't stay here.

You following this?

You say something like, "You know what, I don't like French guys." And pretty soon the French Foreign Exchange Students Association is bringing you up on charges of being a Francophobe, or whatever fancy name they've cooked up for it. And my point is that, yes, well, you *are* a Francophobe — maybe you're even a royal raving bigot — but this is not a *crime*. Some of the biggest bigots on college campuses, in fact, are actually foreign exchange students — Japanese who consider other Asians inferior, Kenyans who can't stand Tanzanians, and on down the line of ancient hatreds, enmities, bitternesses. But until now it was never a *crime*. We never had this kind of bloodlust — people calling for the *hides* of these people. Because, again, you were only judged by what you did, not by what you said.

Same deal in the courts, where you're now judged by what you *said* or *thought* before, after and during what you *did*. A woman who says "I stole that set of steel-belted radials to feed my hungry child" is treated differently from someone who says "We were hanging out at the gas station and we thought we'd cut up some tires." The woman who actually *steals* the tires will be treated more leniently than the guy who simply vandalizes the tires, because a) she's a mother (nothing to do with what she did), b) she had a better "reason" (nothing to do with what she did), and c) we want to believe we can read her mind and read the guy's mind and know which one is more sincere and trustworthy.

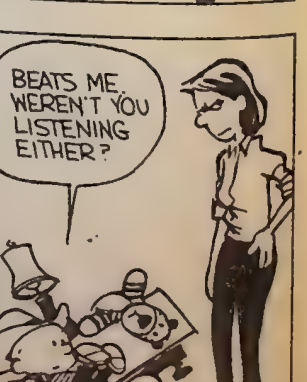
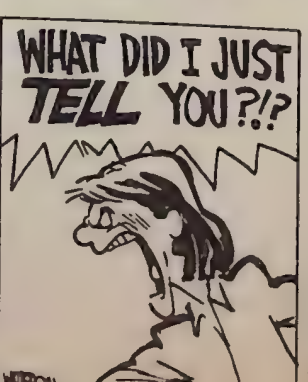
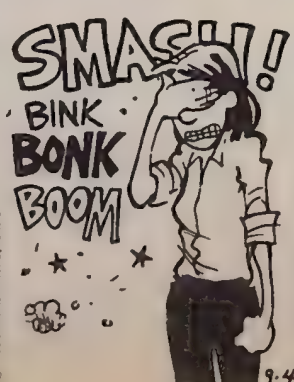
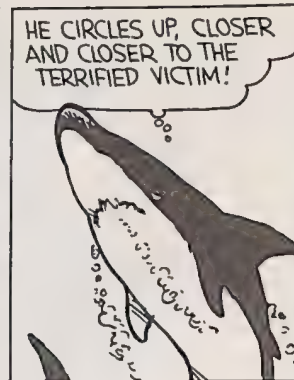
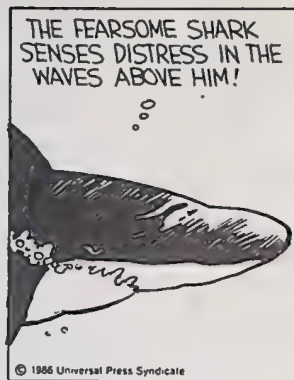
When you start judging the invisible instead of the visible, it leads to one thing. Read my lips: Witch Hunt.

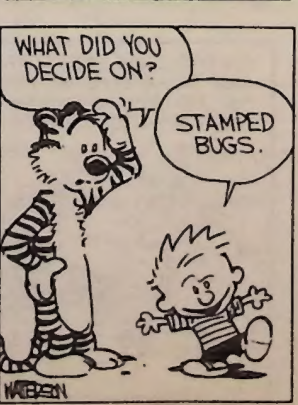
The bonfires are being lit. The scaffolds are ready. When you see this happening, open your damn mouth.

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calvin and Hobbes

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humor me

by Izzy Gesell

An essay question from a Russian high school kid's history test in 2091:

WHAT FACTORS LED TO THE DOWNFALL OF THE PARTY?

The factors that led to the downfall of the Party were numerous. One factor that led to the downfall of the Party which had been in power for many many years was the fact that the Party became convinced it was invincible. All power structures in society including the government and the economic system were controlled by the Party. The Party members shopped in stores that ordinary people could not use and they drove cars that ordinary people could not afford even if they worked for a whole lifetime. The children of the Party elite went to special schools. Party members lived in large estates while ordinary people had to live in rundown or crowded apartments. Even though there was a legislative body that was supposed to represent the interests of the people, real policy was conducted only during Party meetings.

Operating under the semblance of democracy, elections were scheduled every few years but these elections were a farce and a sham because the outcome was always a foregone conclusion. Since only token opposition to the Party was offered the standard bearer of the Party always won.

The downfall of the Party began when the people in power became more concerned with defense and what other countries were doing than with the welfare of their own people. The elite focussed more and more on what was happening overseas while they became richer and richer. The economic system in the country began to crumble. Local and regional problems were ignored while money and food was shipped overseas. People were starving and, with no food and no place to live, the masses stopped buying the Party line. A peaceful revolution took place and democracy was restored to the country. It was finally true that the Party was over.

Definitions:

Middle Class: A category in the discredited economic system. Now extinct, this was supposed to serve as a buffer between the Party elite and the masses. Members of the middle class had the mistaken belief that they could rise into the power structure if they supported the elite. Their real purpose was to keep the masses in check.

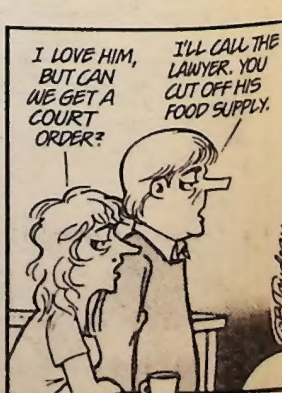
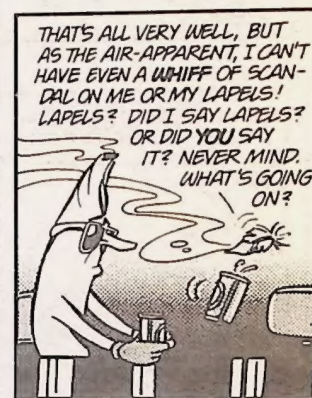
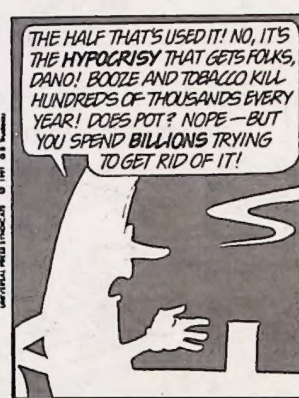
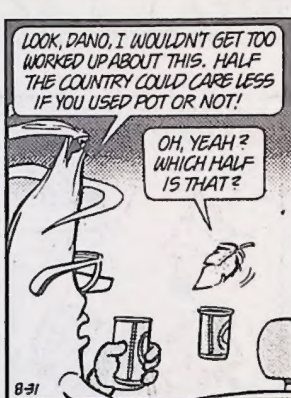
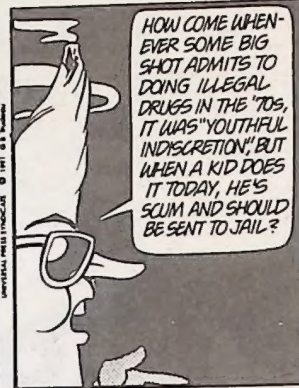
Trickle down theory: Discredited economic theory used by the Party from the early 1980's until the revolution. It was believed that offering the populace crumbs from the economy would suffice. This worked until even the crumbs stopped falling.

Princeton: A school that only the powerful went to. The people took it over and turned it into a tractor-trailer driving school.

Kennebunkport: An exclusive summer resort that attracted the party faithful. Now home to 25,000 formerly displaced people, the area is best known for Wall Street, its family oriented theme park.

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU





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